Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—If that figure is not given, how are we to know that there was no intemperance?

Mr. Sheik Abdul Qadir Sahib Bahadur.—If there was intemperance, we would have told you of that. But there was no intemperance.

The amount collected for transporting timber through the Tramway.

240. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state —

(a) the total amount collected during the year in the shape of charges for transhipping timber through the Tramway as also the amount that would have been accrued, if the Sirkar timber transhipped is also charged at that rate;

(b) whether any definite decision has been come to as regards the new diversion of the Tramway line as contemplated?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—(a) 1. Transport charges realised up to the end of Edavam 1101 on account of private transport is Rs. 4,129—11—10.

2. Transport charges that would have accrued on Sirkar timber transported up to the end of Edavam 1101 is Rs. 60,031—3—1.

(b) If by "new diversion" the Kuriarkutti-Chirakkadavu feeder line is meant, the answer is in the affirmative.

The treatment of snake poisoning.

241. Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—(1) Will the Government be pleased to state whether there is at present any institution in the State under Government control for the treatment of snake poisoning; if so, will they be pleased to state the name and place of that institution;

(2) will the Government be pleased to state whether they have ever considered the question of giving grants to any institution or good native physicians for the treatment of snake bites;

(3) if the answer to the above question is in the negative, will the Government be pleased to give grants to such institutions or physicians at least one in each taluk where it is necessary?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—(1) There are no institutions under the control of the Government.

(2) Yes; but the question had to be put off for want of funds.

(3) The giving of grants will depend upon the availability of funds.

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Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—May I know whether the Government have ever considered as to how much will have to be given as grant, at least an approximate amount for a physician for encouraging snake poison treatment?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—No grant is given to any institution in the State.

President.—I think we give some grant to an institution at Peringavu near Trichur.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—I have no information about that.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—There was some application for it. I do not think that any grant is being given.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Nothing is given now.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—What amount will have to be spent as grant to a single institution or a *Vydian*?

President.—Throughout the year; suppose we put it as Rs. 100.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—That is not a big amount, and our financial difficulties cannot be attributed to giving such a grant.

President.—My question is whether that is a big amount.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—My opinion is that it is not at all a big amount when we consider the necessity of the treatment.

President.—As yet the Government had not any occasion to think of this necessity.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—Will the Government be pleased to give at least Rs. 50 to one *Vydian* per year?

President.—Is it for snake poison treatment? Are there physicians in all taluks?

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—There are. Especially in the Mukudapuram Taluk there are many, and I may also state that there are also many snake poison cases also.

President.—Will they be satisfied with Rs. 50 a year?

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—I shall arrange for able physicians for Rs. 50 at least in a year.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—The Government have not come to any definite decision on that matter.

President.—I ask, if snake poison cases are many, and if there are competent men, whether the Government may not consider the propriety of encouraging this grant so that they may attend to their work.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—There might be a number of applicants.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—It is not necessary that grant should be given to all.

President.—Even if we do not give them anything, they

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would not accept anything from the patients. That is what I have heard.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—It is their belief that they should not take anything, for they believe that their treatment would then have no effect.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—According to my knowledge, there are a good many physicians who will receive the grant and do good work. It will not be misused.

President.—I think they cannot demand anything from the patients. Suppose we give them the grant, would they accept the same?

Dr. A. G. Menon.—There is such a superstition attached to it that no remuneration should be accepted for the work done.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—That is only a superstition.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—There are some, I know, who would not take any amount.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon.—Patients will not go to them, if they take money. The belief is that, if they receive anything as remuneration, the treatment will have no effect.

President.—I believe that those affected by snake poison have to be taken to the physician, and in no case would he come and attend the patient.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—The grant is not given to the physician; but it is given as the cost of medicine that he is to supply.

President.—We have not gone into that question. If you want, we will try. We will make a note of it.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—It is a great necessity.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—It is worth trying.

President.—For all the taluks together suppose we give a grant of Rs. 500 or Rs. 600; that is a small amount.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—My request is only for Rs. 50 as an experimental measure. You can take one case for this year.

President.—Are there good physicians in the Mukundapuram Taluk?

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—There is a big family of reputed physicians in my constituency.

President.—Has the treatment continued in the family?

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—Yes. They have got an ancestral way of treatment. They are continuing it.

President.—I think there is some Nambudiri or so who treats poison cases.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—They are known as Pambumekkat Nambudiris.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—That is not for snake-bite.

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